

Minutes from 1-28-03 Farmworker Health Program Advisory Group Meeting

I The advisory meeting began at 10:00a.m. and lasted until 11:20 a.m. by conference call. Those attending were Mary Miles, Director of the We Care Clinic, Carmelo Mendoza, a Farmworker Health Program user, Patrice Thomesen, KDHE, WIC Consultant, Joyce Volmut, Executive Director of KAMU, Hope Alvarez, Administrator, Seward County Health Department, Tina Delarosa, director of KACHA, Cyndi Treaster, Coordinator of the Farmworker Health Program, and Robert Stiles, Regional Case Manager for the Farmworker Health Program. The minutes from the last meeting were approved by acclamation.

II The next order of business was the introduction of new advisory group members. Hope Alvarez is the administrator at Seward County Health Department. Dr. Doren Fredrickson, who could not attend the meeting, is a pediatrician, the medical officer for the Sedgewick County Health Department and a professor at KU Medical Center in Wichita.

III Next on the agenda was a discussion of the 2003 grant award. Cyndi indicated the KSFHP received the same amount as last year's grant of \$395,350. The only comments attached to the grant award were that the advisory group meet at least two times per year, and minutes be kept of the advisory group meetings.

III The group next discussed the client satisfaction surveys that a graduate student with the Kansas State University, Marriage and Family Therapy Program has been conducting for KSFHP. Carmelo mentioned that he discusses the program with many people in Pratt, his community, but that many of the uninsured are not eligible because they do not do farmwork. Those contacted for the survey were clients who received health services through the KSFHP in the last year. The student attempted to contact 131 people, but 63 of the people that the student attempted to contact had a disconnected phone. So, 51 surveys were completed in all. The results of the survey were very positive and when the write up is completed it will be sent to all advisory group members. Cyndi pointed out that this issue of disconnected phones reveals one of the challenges our program must deal with, a very mobile population. Another issue, highlighted in the survey results is that clients sometimes do not have a good knowledge of the program. Consequently, we have instituted a policy to send out a letter explaining all of the services that the program covers whenever a new application for the program is received.

At this point, Hope asked whether patients in the Farmworker Program must pay for their own prescriptions. Cyndi explained that the program covers \$50 per voucher toward prescriptions, and that the yearly limit on prescriptions per patient is \$150. Hope discussed the issue of clients receiving immunizations and cervical screenings. Tina asked whether KSFHP clients know that they can receive them. Cyndi mentioned that the letter sent out when registrations are received specifically encourages preventive health services and explains that these services are covered by the voucher program. Cyndi and Robert have recently met with representatives of the Free to Know program in order to work more closely with them, so that we can do a better job of referring our clients to

their program for cervical and breast screenings. There was a brief discussion of problems that providers have had with Free to Know in the past.

Cyndi pointed out that the next survey to be completed is a health status survey that the KSU student is currently conducting. In this survey, these types of questions about knowledge of health programs and of health problems will be asked and addressed. Mary stated that this was a good thing to do, that it is important to find out what clients need. She mentioned that We Care had recently conducted a survey of individuals in their diabetes support group, and they discovered that their program needs to work more in the area of nutritional education.

IV Cyndi next mentioned that our Project Officer, Elvira Jarka, from the HHS Regional Office will visit Western Kansas on February 20 to get a sense of our program. Because Cyndi has a prior commitment, Francisco and Robert the two regional case managers will spend the day with her. They will be visiting several access points and Francisco's office in Hugoton.

Cyndi reported that a small grant from the Kansas Health Foundation was received to support low German speaking volunteers to provide outreach and conduct the surveys with low German speaking farmworkers in Western Kansas. She will be orienting them in Montezuma beginning February 21, 2003.

V Cyndi described a recent opinion that she had received regarding access to community mental health services. This opinion was provided through the Farmworker Justice Fund. Community mental health services are not to prohibit access based on lack of legal status in the United States. KSFHP was contacted earlier in the year regarding two community mental health centers limiting access. The opinion was shared with SRS who will be following up on the issue.

VI Cyndi indicated that while we just received word that our program is not considered a "covered entity" under HIPAA, that we are working to implement greater security of personal health information and to emphasize confidentiality in staff training.

VII. Cyndi remarked that the fiscal outlook this year has been good, that that we will have enough to pay for all of the services for our clients, but will not have any grant money leftover for FFY 2002. In a brief discussion of the number of German Mennonites in the program, Patrice mentioned that the survey will be of great benefit to the WIC program, and suggested that FHP present information from the two surveys at the annual KPHA meeting. Hope remarked that she had really enjoyed her first meeting and is excited to be on the advisory group.

There was no other business discussed.